

Tuition waivers incorporated in bill giving three institutions tuition flexibility

A tuition bill that has moved out of committee in the Senate would give the state's two research universities and Western Washington University new flexibility to raise tuition to higher levels than currently allowed by the Legislature. However, it would make continued flexibility contingent on progress in achieving performance goals negotiated with a state committee.

The Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee this week recommended passage of SSB 6562, which would give the University of Washington, Washington State University, and Western Washington University authority to raise resident undergraduate tuition by 14 percent in any one year, but by no more than an annual average of 9 percent over 15 years. That authority would be in effect for academic years 2011-12 through 2017-18.

The original version of the bill would have given all state baccalaureate institutions limited tuition-setting authority, but within a somewhat different set of parameters.

A major new provision in the bill would require the three institutions to waive full-time tuition and fees for resident undergraduate students on a graduated scale based on state median family income levels and each institution's tuition fee rate.

Full-time resident undergraduate students at the three institutions would receive a 100 percent tuition waiver if their family incomes were at or below 50 percent of the state's median family income (MFI), or if tuition fees exceed 4.5 percent of MFI for a family of four, which is currently \$77,676.

Based on the graduated scale, students would receive partial waivers if their family incomes were less than 125 percent of MFI, or if full-time resident tuition exceeds 18 percent of MFI for a family of four. Waivers would be reduced by the amount a student receives from the State Need Grant or from other federal, state, or institutional scholarships, grants and waivers.

Under the revised bill, legislative leaders would play a greater role in ensuring that the three universities make satisfactory but undefined progress in achieving performance measures contained in six-year performance agreements that the institutions would negotiate with a new Committee on Higher Education Performance. The revised bill adds more legislative leadership positions to the committee.

For the three institutions to retain the higher tuition caps provided in the bill, the committee would have to annually determine that the institutions were making adequate progress in achieving the goals contained in the performance agreements.

The revised bill was voted out of the Senate Higher Education Committee on Wednesday and sent to the Ways & Means Committee.

WASHINGTON HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

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during the 2010
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System design bill moves to floor of Senate

A Senate bill that establishes a new process for approving mission changes and major expansions at public higher education institutions was passed out of the Rules Committee and is awaiting action by the Senate.

The bill, SSB 6355, which is supported by the HECB, reflects recommendations in the System Design Plan, a legislatively mandated effort led by the HECB to propose ways to advance the state's higher education goals in during the current financial crisis and beyond.

On Tuesday, the House Higher Education Committee sent a companion measure, SHB 2655, to the House Rules Committee.

House bill seeks to expand pool of K-12 math teachers

Under a bill in the House, college students who seek specialty endorsements to teach math to K-12 students—or who are “uniquely qualified” to help schools address the achievement gap—would receive priority for conditional loan scholarships administered by the HECB and the Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB).

SHB 2930 would affect two conditional-loan programs: the HECB-administered Future Teachers Conditional Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program, and the Alternative Routes to Teacher Certification Conditional Loan Scholarship Program, or Alt Routes. Students receiving Alt Routes scholarships are selected by the PESB.

Beginning with the 2013-14 academic year, all recipients of the two conditional scholarships would be eligible for benefits up to the total cost of attendance or \$15,000, whichever is lower. The programs currently cover tuition and fees only.

Under the programs, students who commit to teaching in certain fields or in areas of the state where teacher shortages exist do not have to repay the loans.

The Future Teachers program is one of the state financial aid programs proposed for suspension next year under the Governor's proposed supplemental budget.

Everett Center nursing bill moves forward in House

A bill that would establish a bachelor of science in nursing program at the University Center at Everett Community College was voted out of the House Higher Education Committee on Tuesday.

Although the committee members voted to keep HB 2694 alive, some noted that the proposal will need to compete with other higher education priorities in a year when the state is considering major budget cuts to address a revenue shortfall for the remainder of the biennium. A section of the nursing bill would make the legislation null and void if specific funding for the program is not provided by June 30 in the Omnibus Appropriations Act.

Under the bill, the University of Washington-Bothell would award bachelor of science degrees to 50 nursing students at the University Center. Everett Community College already offers a two-year nursing degree, and some students would like to continue working toward bachelor's degrees while remaining in the Everett area.

Testimony in support of the bill addressed what is expected to be a growing shortage of nurses with bachelor's degrees or higher, especially as the large group of baby boomers retires from the nursing profession over the next few years.

HB 2694 was passed to the House Rules Committee for further action.

House higher education bills:

- **[2SHB 1235](#)** – Regarding tuition fees at institutions of higher education.
- **[HB 1312](#)** – Eliminating the exclusive authority of the University of Washington and Washington State University to offer certain engineering courses.
- **[SHB 1545](#)** – Authorizing the higher education Coordinating Board to offer higher education annuities and retirement income plans.
- **[HB 1901](#)** - Establishing additional health sciences and services authorities in certain areas.
- **[SHB 1914](#)** – Regarding community and technical colleges' maintenance and operations funding.
- **[HB 2118](#)** – Convening an advisory committee on tuition policy.

- [E2SHB 2318](#) – Creating the Washington institute of aerospace technology and manufacturing studies.
 - [HB 2479](#) – Exempting payment of fees at institutions of higher learning for children of certain law enforcement officers or firefighters.
 - [HB 2580](#) – Concerning secondary career and technical education courses.
 - [SHB 2602](#) – Establishing continuing education requirements for engineers.
 - [HB 2584](#) – Regarding the scope of collective bargaining for non-tenured faculty at community and technical colleges.
 - [HB 2602](#) – Establishing continuing education requirements for engineers.
 - [HB 2607](#) – Providing an exception to postretirement employment restrictions for retirees teaching in high-demand subjects.
 - [SHB 2617](#) – Eliminating certain boards and commissions.
 - [SHB 2630](#) – Creating the opportunity to express program.
 - [HB 2631](#) – Establishing a dropout prevention recognition program.
 - [SHB 2632](#) – Expanding the number of households living in the middle-income bracket.
 - [SHB 2634](#) – Promoting efficiencies including institutional coordination and partnerships in the community and technical college system.
 - [HB 2638](#) – Regarding instructional materials provided in a specialized format.
 - [SHB 2655](#) – Expanding higher education system upon proven demand.
 - [SHB 2683](#) – Changing provisions of the economic development council.
 - [SHB 2684](#) – Establishing opportunity centers at community colleges.
 - [HB 2694](#) – Regarding a bachelor of science in nursing program at the University Center.
 - [HB 2743](#) – Addressing collective bargaining for certain employees of institutions of higher education and related boards.
 - [HB 2822](#) – Modifying the budget recommendations developed by the higher education coordinating board to include recommendations on tuition and fees.
 - [HB 2824](#) – Making 2010 operating supplemental appropriations.
 - [HB 2836](#) – Concerning the capital budget.
 - [SHB 2852](#) – Concerning college-level online learning by high school students.
 - [SHB 2854](#) – Making changes to the state higher education loan program.
 - [HB 2858](#) – Regarding the purchasing authority of institutions of higher education.
 - [HB 2859](#) – Regarding administration at institutions of higher education.
 - [SHB 2915](#) – Regarding mathematics and science high school graduation requirements.
 - [ESHB 2921](#) – Capturing additional savings.
 - [SHB 2930](#) – Expanding the pool of qualified teachers.
 - [HB 2936](#) – Changing the state student financial aid program.
 - [HB 2946](#) – Regarding tuition-setting authority at institutions of higher education.
 - [HB 2973](#) – Creating resident student classifications for certain members of the military and their spouses and dependents.
 - [SHB 2979](#) – Regarding higher education performance agreements.
 - [SHB 2998](#) – Suspending certain monetary awards and salary increases.
 - [HB 3002](#) – Authorizing tuition and fees waivers for K-12 classified staff.
 - [HB 3025](#) – Establishing an alternative route to a high school diploma.
 - [HB 3057](#) – Establishing the student financial assistance board by eliminating the higher education coordinating board and transferring its functions to various entities.
 - [SHB 3059](#) – Expanding options for educator preparation.
 - [HB 3068](#) – Providing access to alternative routes to certification for the recruiting Washington teachers program.
 - [HB 3091](#) – Regarding dual credit programs.
 - [HB 3126](#) – Authorizing certain community and technical colleges to award honorary baccalaureate degrees.
 - [HCR 4403](#) – Providing for the 2008-2028 state comprehensive plan for workforce training.
 - [HCR 4404](#) – Commending the higher education coordinating board for its initiative to develop a higher education system plan.
- ### Senate higher education bills:
- [2SSB 5176](#) – Creating a bi-state partnership for teachers of children with visual impairments.

- [SSB 5237](#) – Requiring the development of three-year baccalaureate programs.
- [SSB 5260](#) – Requiring a collaborative review of incentive programs to motivate students to pursue postsecondary education.
- [SSB 5376](#) – Requiring the higher education coordinating board to develop a grant program to encourage training for students studying in the medical field to work with individuals with disabilities.
- [SB 6156](#) – Providing economically responsible solutions for higher education funding and access.
- [SB 6276](#) – Granting the University of Washington tuition-setting authority.
- [SB 6290](#) – Concerning collective bargaining for certain employees of institutions of higher education and related boards.
- [SSB 6325](#) – Regarding the institute of forest resources.
- [SSB 6355](#) – Expanding the higher education system upon proven demand.
- [SSB 6357](#) – Requiring policies for academic recognition of certain life and learning experiences.
- [SB 6358](#) – Regarding tuition surcharges for students who do not have timely completion of degrees.
- [SSB 6359](#) – Promoting efficiencies including institutional coordination and partnerships in the community and technical college system.
- [SB 6364](#) – Concerning the capital budget.
- [SSB 6382](#) – Reducing the cost of state government operations by restricting compensation.
- [SSB 6409](#) – Creating the Washington investment in excellence account.
- [SB 6413](#) – Regarding the purchasing authority of institutions of higher education.
- [SB 6426](#) – Eliminating certain boards and commissions.
- [SB 6444](#) – Making 2010 operating supplemental appropriations.
- [SB 6467](#) – Authorizing honorary degrees for students who were ordered into internment camps.
- [SSB 6503](#) – Closing state agencies on specified dates.
- [SB 6509](#) – Modifying the budget recommendations developed by the higher education coordinating board to include recommendations on tuition and fees.
- [SB 6533](#) – Granting high school credit for learning experiences.
- [SB 6553](#) – Regarding mathematics and science high school graduation requirements.
- [SB 6562](#) – Regarding tuition-setting authority at institutions of higher education.
- [SSB 6579](#) – Improving the efficiency, accountability, and quality within state information systems.
- [SB 6594](#) – Regarding commercializing research at state universities.
- [SB 6596](#) – Authorizing innovation partnership schools.
- [SB 6597](#) – Making a completed application to a postsecondary education program a requirement for HS graduation.
- [SB 6625](#) – Changing higher education tuition and financial aid provisions.
- [SB 6655](#) – Regarding the running start program.
- [SB 6662](#) – Regarding developing a curriculum for a career track for home care aides.
- [SB 6678](#) – Concerning the creation of entities to address the long-range impact of opportunities and changes in the aerospace industry.
- [SB 6687](#) – Regarding student members on boards of trustees of community colleges and the state board for community and technical colleges.
- [SB 6696](#) – Regarding education reform.
- [SB 6703](#) – Regarding online nursing programs.
- [SSB 6706](#) – Concerning the commercialization of research at state universities.
- [SB 6731](#) – Establishing the Washington trade corps fellowship program.
- [SB 6778](#) – Establishing an alternative route to a high school diploma.
- [SSB 6790](#) – Providing regional economic development services.
- [SB 6801](#) – Regarding a bachelor of science in nursing program at the University Center.